Removal of goods from the purview of Essential Commodities Act

2388. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Out of Essential Commodities Act, cement quality suffers" as reported in the "Times of India" dated the 17th June, 2002.

(b) if so, whether due to non imposition of mandatory quality control order on cement manufacturers, the consumers are being cheated;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government have removed certain goods from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such complaint regarding supply of sub-standard quality of cement has been received by the Government so far. With the removal of cement from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 with effect from 15th February, 2002 Government propose to bring cement under mandatory certification of Bureau of Indian Standards under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

(c) and (d) The List of Commodities declared as "essential" under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is reviewed from time to time in the light of changes in the economic situation and particularly with regard to their production and supply. Keeping in view production and demand of some of the commodities, it was felt that these could be removed from the list of essential commodities. Accordingly, with effect from 15.2.2002, Government removed the following items from the list of commodities declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in addition to cement:

1. Textiles Machinery:—

   (i) Knitting Machine, (ii) Spinning Machine, (iii) Lace Making Machine, (iv) Powerloom and (v) Processing Machinery.

2. Textiles made from silk.

3. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic spun fibres.

4. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn.

5. General Lighting Service Lamps.

6. Household appliances such as electric irons, heaters and the like.

7. Electrical Cables and Wires.

8. Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic staple fibres.

9. Yarn made wholly or in part from any of the following materials, namely:—

(i) wool (ii) man-made cellulosic spun fibre, (iii) man-made non-cellulosic spun fibre, (iv) silk.

10. (i) Man-made cellulosic and Non-cellulosic filament yarn, (ii) Nylon Tyre Yarn / Cord / Fabric.

11. (i) Switches for domestic and similar purposes (ii) 2-AMP Switches, (iii) 3-Pin Plugs and Sockets outlets.

Closure of Super Bazaar

†2389. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to close down the Super Bazaar; and

(b) if so, the details of the amount of compensation being given to the employees of Super Bazaar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.